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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

ITOH

Serial No. 10/730,917

Filed: December 10, 2003



Atty. Ref.: 160-402

TC/A.U.: 1743

Examiner:

For: STOPPER FOR TUBE-SHAPED SPECIMEN CONTAINERS

\* \* \* \* \*

April 4, 2006

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Attention is invited to the attached copy of an Official Action (and complete English translation) mailed on March 7, 2006 with respect to the basic Japanese application and a copy of the document first cited in it. A completed Form PTO/SB/08A is also attached. As a complete English translation is provided any reference not in English does not require a concise explanation of relevance; *see* MPEP §609.04(a).

Official citation and consideration of the attached document is requested. Please return to the undersigned a copy of the attached PTO/SB/08A with the examiner's initials in the left column [MPEP §609] with the next communication.

Each item of information disclosed herein was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application. This communication was not received by any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than 30 days prior to the filing date of this statement. [37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)].

I hereby certify that each item of information contained herein was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months from the filing date of this statement [see 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (1)].

The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or

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is considered to be, material to patentability [37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g) & (h)] or that no other material information exists.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

By: \_\_\_\_\_



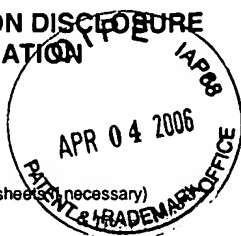
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(Use several sheets if necessary)

December 10, 2003

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Date Considered

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